

Town of North Stonington, CT
HEWITT FARM COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 15, 2012 at 3:00 p.m
New Town Hall Conference Room

The meeting of the Hewitt Farm Committee was called to order by Nita Kincaid at 3:00 p.m. in the New Town Hall Conference Room with members Ellie Banker, Jack Brown, Dick (Coop) Cooper, Ed Harasimowitz, and Nita Kincaid present.

1) Approve 09/24/12 Meeting Minutes

Coop motioned and Ed seconded to approve the 09/24/12 Meeting Minutes with minor changes that will be incorporated by Nita. The motion carried.

2) Review revised draft for Hewitt Farm Hayfield Request for Proposals

Nita distributed a copy of "Hay Proposal Next Steps" dated 10/15/12, which contains a list of target dates and how to proceed with the *Draft Request for Proposals to Harvest the Hewitt Farm Hayfields*. She also verified that all committee members had a copy of the draft RPF that she had emailed to them last week.

The committee reviewed the draft RFP section by section making several minor changes. Nita will incorporate these changes, send the revision to Ed for his approval, and, per the "next steps" schedule, submit the draft RFP to the Board of Selectmen for final review.

Coop will ask Marc Tate, IT Coordinator for the Town, to produce a map of Hewitt Farm identifying the four hayfields by name and acreage, and showing all trails, parking areas and stone walls that surround the hayfields.

3) Update on Greene Gables

Nita distributed "DRAFT Miscellaneous Greene Gables Information," a sheet showing the timeline of occupancy for Greene Gables based on information obtained from censuses from 1880 to 1930. She plans to forward this information to Historical Society President Frank Eppinger for his use.

Nita also distributed a copy of an email she had sent to the Board of Selectmen communicating the committee's request that "steps be taken as soon as possible to secure the Greene Gables structure and the immediate surrounding area." First

Selectman Mullane verbally assured Nita that the board would be discussing the matter in the near future.

4) Report on Girl Scout Camporee

Nita reported that the Girl Scout Camporee held over the October 12th weekend apparently went well. She will contact Girl Scout Leader Angie Amaral to ask for feedback on the use of Hewitt Farm for this type of event.

5) Status of rental leases

Nita reported that the Board of Selectmen have not yet received signed leases from the residential tenants.

6) Member updates on projects and any additional items for group discussion

Ellie had arranged for Chris Cassidy, a forester from Hull Wood Products who is working in the area, to examine the evergreen trees around Greene Gables. The purpose was to determine their condition and whether they have harvesting value. The condition of the trees was of concern because of proximity to the building and the possible impact of future high-wind storms. Mr. Cassidy will be forwarding information to Ellie to be shared with the committee.

Coop noted that Jim Cowen, author of "Botanical Survey" of Hewitt Farm, should be invited to attend the next meeting to discuss cutting the meadows before year's end. Coop will ask him to attend at 4:30 p.m. on October 29, 2012.

Ed stated that he would inform the POCD working group that Hewitt Farm has established *Vision and Mission Statements*, and the Hewitt Farm Committee will assist the POCD update effort any way it can. Committee members may participate in the roundtable discussions as individuals, but will also represent the Hewitt Farm Committee when appropriate. Ed will provide the committee with continuous updates on the POCD's progress.

Nita stated that Mary Ann Ricker had expressed a desire to use Hewitt Farm for "community gardens." Nita suggested to her that the best way to approach this is to complete an *Event/Project Application Form*, outlining her proposal. Nita also suggested to Mary Ann that she plan to attend a future meeting to present her ideas.

7) Public comments and questions

There were none.

8) Priorities for the October 29, 2012 agenda

- a) Progress on the hayfield contract and rental leases

- b) "Lessons learned" from the camporee
- c) Report on Chris Cassidy's visit
- d) Seeding and cutting of the meadows
- e) Accommodating community gardens
- f) Ideas for guest lecturers or consultations
- g) Member updates on projects and additional items for group discussion

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Richard B. Cooper